PACENET

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
by Ed Wharton

The Atari SIG's main meeting started at 11 o'clock. Not only did we have two demos, but also our FIRST raffle!! The winner of this raffle was "Clerry". Unfortunately, "Clerry" left before his name was drawn. Hopefully, he makes it to the next meeting to claim his prize!! Otherwise.....?????

The first demo was from Antic Magazine's October disk: the BONUS program "Personal Spelling Checker". Jay Freedman showed us around this program. It allows up to ten separate dictionary files of about 6,000 words each. The program lets you add, delete, and view your word file(s). A unique feature of this program is the ability of the user to add a text file directly into the dictionary. This will get the program ready for use faster than a spelling checker that needs each word added separately.

Then we had a demo from David Levin. Typesetter from Xlent Software is a program for doing letterheads, posters, newsletter title pages. Typesetter features text in 32 different sizes and many different fonts (all 9 sector character sets seem to work). We have in our own public domain library many character sets and editors that can also be used. The text in this program can be printed in every direction. You can mix text with Typesetter icon graphics. Included in the program is a sketch pad to draw your own pictures or P.S. Interface. Also from XLent Software, you can convert Print Shop icons (there are over 1000 different commercial and public domain graphics available) to Typesetter icons. You can do borders and dividers with the special character graphics, in many different sizes.

I would like to thank Jay and David for giving us these two informative demos.

The programming class for October will be led by Jay Freedman. He will be talking about Turbo-BASIC XL. This is a disk based public domain language. This is a far better version of the language than "ATARI BASIC" that comes built into the XL/XE line of ATARI computers. I hope all of our members have gotten a copy of this disk from our library and of course, will be able to attend this class.

As always, we're looking for your input!! Tell us what you like or don't like about the meetings. What are or software you like to see. I'd like to hear f. all of you.

VIDEO POKER
A review by
David Mohnach

This game is from Mastertronic and costs nine dollars and ninety-nine cents ($9.99). I bought it from Games 'n' Gadgets who support the ATARI line. Mastertronic is releasing there games using one disk for two different computer lines. Naturally, you'll see the Commodore line on one side with the ATARI line on the second!!!

Video Poker is a good simulation for our ATARI computers from the world famous Las Vegas video poker machines. It plays with one deck of cards and will test all your gambling card skills. You choose your coins: nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars. You start with twenty coins, inserting one to five coins per play. I got lucky one day when I inserted five dollars and received four aces which payed off one hundred and fifty dollars. It's a shame it wasn't real!!!

Also included in this package of games is Vegas Jackpot. This is a "slot machine" which features nudge, gamble and shuffle.

In closing, I enjoyed playing Video Poker. If you like to gamble or try you hand at learning how to play poker, this is the game for you. (Editor's note: Hopefully, this game does not turn you into a poker addict!! Otherwise, you're liable to go to Vegas for the real thing, especially if the game has you winning BIG BUCKS!!! Remember, it's a GAME!!)

ATTENTION !!! ATTENTION !!!

David Mohnach has brought to our attention that there is an error in the program that was in the August issue of PACENET. The program was called "Windfall". The error is in line 910. This is how it should read:

LINE 910 ?:? "DO YOU WANT TO CALCULATE A NEW FIGURE?" :? "(Y/N)":INPUT NY$

If anyone does not have this program, you can now find it on the PACS BBS.

FLASH BULLETIN !!
by Lucy G. Rhoda

Dave Mohnach caught this and passed it on to me to print in the PACENET. He read this article by James B. Meigs in Popular Mechanics (October 1987) and felt we should know that computer games are still around, especially in the ATARI world. The following are some excerpts from that article.

Computer Games Going Strong

With personal computers being inexpensive and in so many homes, schools, offices, there are plenty of people who like to take an occasional break to try out the lastest game software. Activision is one company that recently introduced a new line of games for ATARI computers. ATARI has also worked to bridge the gap between computer and games, introducing hardware that can handle both tasks, as well as exciting games. At the CES, ATARI introduced 40 new games. The company also sells one of the most powerful game systems available, the new XE, featuring a remarkable 64-kilobyte memory.

ATARI is in the process of converting disc-based computer games to the plug-in cartridge used by the XE system. The entire XE system is priced at about $150 and includes both a keyboard and a light-sensitive target gun for shooting games. For that price, ATARI also throws in three popular games cartridge: SubLogic's "Flight Simulator II", the classic "Missile Command", and a new XE game called "Blast 'Em".

1987 ATARI USERS' GROUP OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Ed Wharton	423-6233
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Jay Freedman	657-2369
EDITOR/SECRETARY:	Lucy G. Rhoda	635-1009
DISK LIBRARIAN:	Eric Zwirnaam	342-8263

NOTES FROM THE ATARI ST SIG
by Ed Wharton

Attendance is picking up!! Especially, now that summer is over!! We had a very lively meeting. John Walton was unable to attend the meeting.

We had a demonstration of PC-Ditto from Avant-Garde Systems. This is an IBM emulator for the ATARI ST. We were shown that the emulator can run MS-DOS 3.2 (and others) with many public domain and commercial IBM programs. The files must be on 3 1/2" disks. Therefore, you need to port them over from a 5 1/4" disk. However, the programs do not run as fast as they would on an IBM clone. Lotus 123, Wordstar, and many other programs have been tested and are certified to run. We discussed the usefulness of this emulator which costs about $90.00. It is a good way to run IBM programs at home, provided you don't need much in the way of speed!!

Brain Oplinger (our ST librarian) showed off the three new disks that have been added to the library. The first two were a games disk and a disk of utilities. The third disk was a new version of the STWriter. STWriter is now version 2.0 with a mouse interface and some added features.

ADVERTISING RATES

Do you wish to advertise in our newsletter? We are now going to advertise so that the club can raise more money to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters each month. The rates are as follows:

$20.00	FULL PAGE
10.00	HALF PAGE
4.00	BUSINESS CARD

Call 635-1009 for more information.

OR

Write to: PACENET Advertising
c/o Lucy G. Rhoda
314 S. Sterling Rd.
Elkins Park, PA. 19117

NOTE: The deadline for any ad is the second Saturday of every month in order to be in that month's newsletter. Therefore, the ad is due on November 14, 1987 in order to make the November issue of PACENET.

PACENET

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
by Jay Freedman

I'm happy to sub for Ed Wharton for this month's column. The Fates decreed that as soon as Ed scheduled a vacation (for which he would miss a PACS meeting for the first time ever), we would elect him "President"!!! Relax, Ed, the Atari group still exists (I think!).
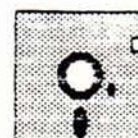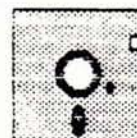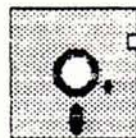
Attendance at the August meeting was excellent for the midsummer doldrums, when many other SIGs didn't even bother to meet. Most of our members also got to the Ham and Chips Festival. As in most years, there was little of interest specifically to Atarians at the Festival. There were some books and a little (very old) software. Perhaps for next year we can invite Atari vendors who carry current products to come to the Ham and Chips Festival. It certainly would make their investment worthwhile. This is a problem we share with several other SIGs whose machines don't use MS-DOS, and we will look for some cooperation from them.

Thanks to Ed's purchase of an 800XL for the group, we were able to have some demonstrations. We saw three programs: a 3-D plotter and two terminal emulators. It will be a pleasure not to have to scrounge for a computer at our future meetings.

At the end of the meeting, we handed out flyers to advertise P.A.C.S. and the Atari group. Please don't forget to pass these out to your friendly neighborhood computer stores and post them on public bulletin boards (at supermarkets, etc.)--we want new members!

If you own a modem, be sure to get an account on the P.A.C.S. BBS and call regularly. (See Rich Freedman or me at the meeting, or call the P.A.C.S. office at 951-1255.) This is where the business of the SIG gets done between meetings, and where a good chunk of the software library is being posted. And if you don't have a modem, get one... going on-line is more fun than playing video games!

At the September meeting, we'll be asking whether there is enough interest to have a TurboBASIC programming class; if so, it will start in October. We'll also be asking for ideas about what the prize should be in the first software raffle. What kind of program would you like to win?

THE ATARI LIBRARY: WHAT'S NEW
by Eric Zwirmann, Disk Librarian

First off, I would like to say that the latest A.N.A.L.O.G. disk (July/August 1987) has finally arrived. It is now available for those that wish to purchase a copy.

The disk of the month (September) is a Utility disk (#18.0). The disk contains several Print Shop utility programs, including an icon graphics dump program. Also on the disk is a file copying program which allows several files to be copied at once.
Two other programs available on Utility 18.0 are basic programs, one will increase typing speed when entering BASIC programs. The other program is a Hi-Resolution Screen dump for the OKI-MATE 10 printer. It loads uncompressed picture files and dumps them in Black & White.

Another disk which has been added to the library is called "ACTION! RUNTIME LIBRARY". It allows Action! programs to be run without the Action cartridge. The disk contains documentation, source codes, along with necessary utilites.

*** PLEASE NOTE that knowledge of Action! programming is a must in order to use this disk, and that this disk DOES NOT contain the actual Action! programming language.

That's all for this month. In the months comming, look for more Educational programs along with some new game disks. I may even include one or two of my own programs.

*** WANTED ***

The Philadelphia Area Computer Society's Atari User's Group is looking for public domain software. Anyone can, and all members are encouraged to donate programs to the PACS library. When you donate a disk (with something on it) to the library, you can pick a disk of your choice from the library. Public domain programs of any kind are wanted for our library, utilities, printer utilities, BASIC games, machine language games, pictures, or graphics. If you have a file that's not in the library, the librarians would like to see it.

NEWS AND QUIPS FROM OTHER USERS GROUPS
by Lucy G. Rhoda

Since many of you were not able to get to the August meetings, you may have missed some good "tidbits" at the meeting and from the PACENET. I thought it would be wise if I reprinted some valuable information for those of you that may have missed them. The following is one that concerns GEnie and came from the April issue of MILATARI (Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group) by Ron Friedel.

GEnie

GEnie (The General Electric Network for Information Exchange) is offering a special incentive to user group members if we sign up for GEnie before Dec. 31,1987. The normal $18.00 registration fee is waived. The only fee that will be charged is the normal non-prime time rate of $5.00 per hour of use at either 300 or 1200 baud. For the free sign-up, just follow these three easy steps (make sure to have a major credit card or checking account number handy to set up you personal GEnie account):

1. Set your modem for half duplex (local echo) at 300 or 1200 baud. ASCII translation.

2. Dial (toll free) 1-800-638-8369. Upon connection, enter HHH.

3. At the U#= prompt, enter XJM11887,Atari and press [RETURN].

If you have any problems or need additional assistance, call 1-800-638-9636.

Here's some news that was given to me by Dave Mohnach. He got it from COMMUNICATION BRIEFINGS, "BOARDROOM REPORTS" (July 1, 1987). I'm glad he was able to catch it and pass it on to us.

OLD FLOPPY DISK DANGER!!

Important information stored on floppy disks can be LOST if it isn't copied to another disk at least every 18 months. The TRAP is that the magnetic oxide used to coat these floppy disks begin to deteriorate in two years of less from the time it was applied to the disk. The only alternative to this program is of course to transfer the data to a hard disk that isn't prone to deterioration.

Then there was an article that I have been waiting to put in the newsletter. Well, this month, I found room for it!!! It's for those owners of the XM301 Modem. Here is reprint of the article from PHOENIX (February 1987).

XM301 MODEM/1050 DRIVE BOOT FIX

Some users of the XM301 modem are experiencing problems booting programs with the modem connected to their computer. The problem is with the combination of certain 1050 drives and the XM301 modem in that it takes excessively long to load. Only a small number of 1050's have this problem, so don't worry about it too much if you are looking at buying a XM301. I'm sre Atari has, or soon will fix the bug. The following is a fix for the problem provided by Atari Canada and should not be attempted if you have not run into a problem or don't have the proper experience to do this type of work.
*******NOTE: This fix is not an official Atari upgrade. If you do it, it's at your own risk.*******
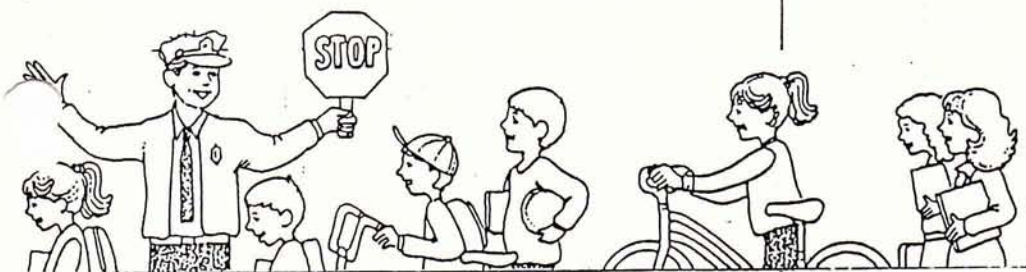
To correct the booting problem, you will require three 470 ohm resistors, some solder, soldering iron, wire cutters, and a Phillips screwdriver.

1. Open the XM301 Modem and remove the PCB assembly.

2. Locate the area where the cable is attached to the board. The wires will be labeled with numbers. Some modems will have these contacts coated w a sealant. Remove the sealant carefully with your finge. knife, or screwdriver.

3. Desolder the lines labelled 3, 9, 13, and pull the wires through the board. REMEMBER WHICH WIRE GOES INTO WHICH HOLE. Better yet, label them with a piece of tape.

4. Install each of the three 470 ohm resistors into each open hole. Push the resistors all the way in, leaving them standing upward.

5. Trim the excess wire extending through the bottom of the board and solder the resistor in place.

6. Attach the designated wires close to the tops of the resistors, solder them in place and trim the excess wire off the resistor.

7. Be sure that none of the resistors or wires touch each other.

8. Put the modem back together.

Works fine!!!!

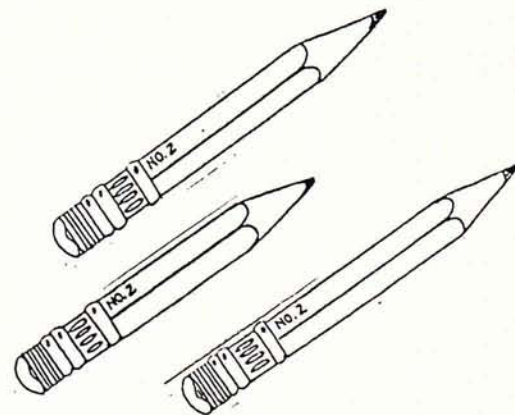NOTE: If you have no electronic experience, DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS FIX !!!

P.A.C.S. Atari User's Group Public Domain Library

P.A.C.S. members

1) the first disk is one dollar ($1.00)
2) each disk after that is two dollars ($2.00)
3) one free disk for each disk donated to the library

NON - P.A.C.S. members

1) all disks are two dollars each
2) one free disk for each disk donated to the library

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THE PACENET NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES!!